

From: Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/30/2012 8:46:40 AM

To: Peggy Zawodny/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Sue Warner/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Fw: blank contamination

More info on blanks.

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----- Forwarded by Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US on 01/30/2012 08:46 AM -----

From: Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US
To: Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: CherylA Hawkins/ERT/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Gary Newhart/CI/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Fetzer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Graves, Suddha" <Sgraves@TechLawInc.com>, Stevie Wilding/ESC/R3/USEPA/US, Sue Warner/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/28/2012 02:48 PM
Subject: RE: blank contamination

Cindy see below for details.

Richard Rupert
On-Scene Coordinator
U.S.EPA
1650 Arch Street - 3HS31
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 814-3463 - office
215 514 8773 - MOBILE
rupert.richard@epa.gov

From: "Graves, Suddha" <Sgraves@TechLawInc.com>
To: Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US
Cc: Gary Newhart/CI/USEPA/US@EPA, CherylA Hawkins/ERT/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Fetzer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/28/2012 01:13 PM
Subject: RE: blank contamination

Rupert,

We will collect the requested samples today and have them shipped out on Monday for Tuesday delivery to Ft. Meade. Regarding questions on the bottle types and the preservative...

- We are using pre-preserved 40 ml vials with HCL for VOC analysis, so the amount of preservative should be the same in all bottles.
- The water we are using for our field QC is "water, deionized ultra filtered (DIUF)", CAS No. 7732-18-5, Fisher Scientific Catalog No. W2-20. Lot 115718, 20 liter cube.
- The sample container used for VOC analysis is from ESS. Pre-cleaned Quality Certified, 40 ml clear Type 1 (borosilicate glass vial open top polypro with 0.125 inch septa) Lot No. 0134701W, Date 1/19/2012.
- The preservative used is "Pre-preserved 0.4 ml 1:1 ratio HCL EMD omni trace HX0607, Lot No. 50267, CAS 7647-

01-0, YN 1789.

- A couple notes regarding sample collection from FB01. This was the first sample day. They had a fire with burning plastics nearby. The fire was put out. I don't have the logbook in front of me now, so I don't know exactly what time the fire was put out and when the FB sample began to be collected.
- For FB02, this was collected from the Sautners' residence. Field blank sample was collected out of the back of our truck which was parked on the side of the road. Our vehicles are not running during field blank sample collection. However, other vehicles had driven by during sample collection.
- For each field blank collected, an entire 20 L cube of water is used. So a separate cube of water is used for each field blank.
- The cubes of water are comprised of 20 liters of water in a poly sack contained within a cardboard box.
- Were there contaminants within the trip blank samples? They are filled with the same water as the field blank samples.

Thanks,

Suddha Graves

TechLaw, Inc.

From: Rupert.Richard@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Rupert.Richard@epamail.epa.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:36 AM

To: Graves, Suddha

Cc: newhart.gary@epa.gov; Hawkins.CherylA@epamail.epa.gov; Fetzer.Richard@epamail.epa.gov

Subject: Fw: blank contamination

Can you all get Cindy her samples, as requested below, out first thing Monday morning by the fastest available method.

Suddha if you have staff in the area now, please see if this can be done today.

thanks

Rich

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----- Forwarded by Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US on 01/28/2012 09:34 AM -----

From: Cynthia Caporale/ESC/R3/USEPA/US

To: Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US

Cc: CherylA Hawkins/ERT/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Gary Newhart/CI/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Fetzer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Stevie Wilding/ESC/R3/USEPA/US, Sue Warner/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 01/28/2012 09:01 AM

Subject: Re: blank contamination

Rich,

Preliminary results are indicating possible blank contamination. Both FB-01 and FB-02 analytical runs indicated the presence of chlorinated compounds (methylene chloride, chloroform, trichloroethene (TCE)). To check the blank water used for QC we need 2 VOA vials with just the blank water and one vial that contains the preservative without water (we would add lab blank water). The amount of preservative should be the same as used for samples and blanks. Internal lab blanks were clean. Yesterday I thought Stevie said the one sample (HW sample) did not have these compounds present but I would need to confirm that on Monday.

Cindy

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Date: 01/28/2012 08:30 AM
Subject: blank contamination

Cindy,

I just want to be sure I understood what you told me yesterday since the connection was not all that great..

Stevie indicated that she believes our blanks are contaminated with contaminants typical of tap water such as disinfection by-product and did I also hear PCE also? Stevie would like us to send VOAs filled only with our blank water and VOAs with only preservative since the source of the contamination maybe the acid.

Questions.

1. How many VOAs with blank water would you like?
2. How much preservative would you like?
3. How many sample blanks seem to be affected?

I spoke with our sample team and they told me we are using DI water. I have asked them to identify the source/supplier of this DI water. At this point I am not sure where the preservative is coming from. I am also unsure how the preservative is delivered: is it already in each VOA or is it supplied in bulk. Maybe Cheryl or Gary can answer this question.

thanks
Rich

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